MARVEL COMICS
SPIDER-MAN 2099
THANATOS
HEY! YOU CAN'T WRECK ALCHEMAX--
--THAT'S MY JOB!
LEONARDI
WILLIAMSON
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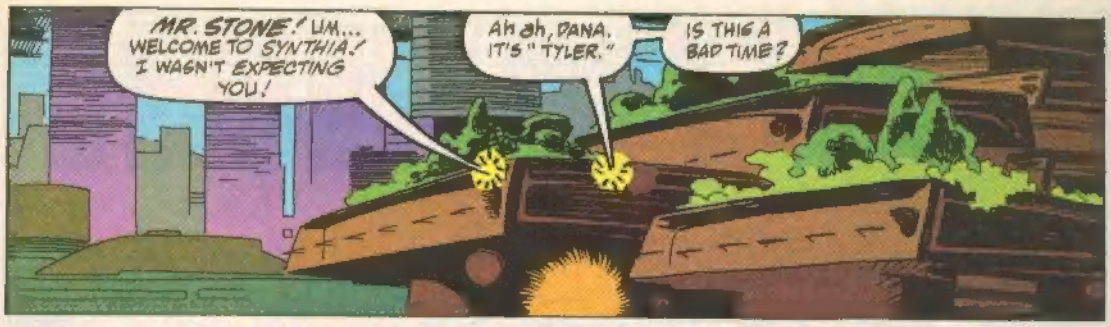
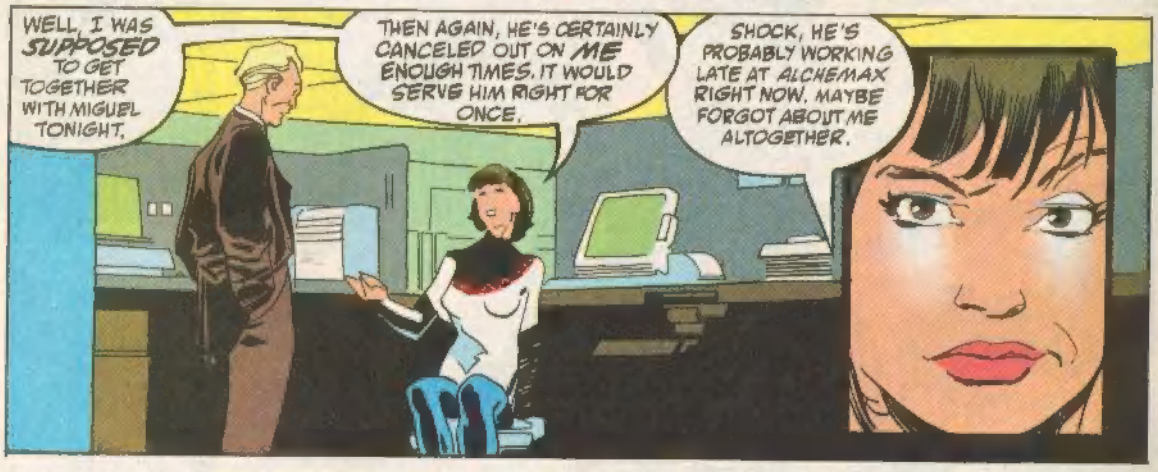
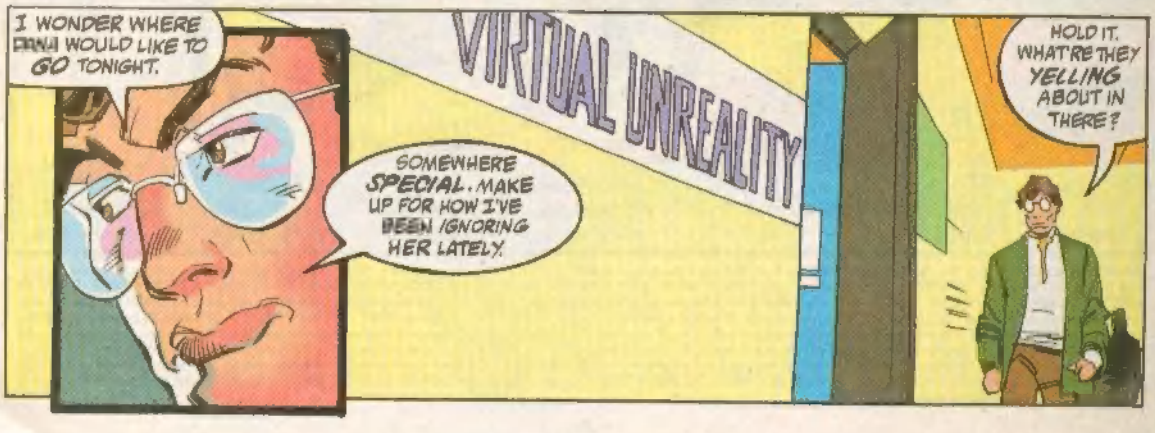

MR. STONE! UM... WELCOME TO SYNTHIA! I WASN'T EXPECTING YOU!
Ah oh, DANA, IT'S "TYLER."
IS THIS A BAD TIME?

UH, NO. NOT AT ALL, TYLER. I WAS JUST INSTRUCTING MY V.I.C. TO COMPILE INFO ON THE FLOATING CITY.
AH YES, THE VISUAL INTERFACE COMPUTER. HOW FAR WE'VE COME.
SINCE IT'S NEAR DINNER TIME, I WAS HOPING YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SUPPING WITH ME. DISCUSS FUTURE PROJECTS.


WELL, I WAS SUPPOSED TO GET TOGETHER WITH MIGUEL TONIGHT.
THEN AGAIN, HE'S CERTAINLY CANCELED OUT ON ME ENOUGH TIMES. IT WOULD SERVE HIM RIGHT FOR ONCE.
SHOCK, HE'S PROBABLY WORKING LATE AT ALCHEMAX RIGHT NOW. MAYBE FORGOT ABOUT ME ALTOGETHER.


I WONDER WHERE DANA WOULD LIKE TO GO TONIGHT.
SOMEWHERE SPECIAL. MAKE UP FOR HOW I'VE BEEN IGNORING HER LATELY.
VIRTUAL UNREALITY
HOLD IT. WHAT'RE THEY YELLING ABOUT IN THERE?

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HOLY SHOCK!
IS EVERYBODY OKAY?
HAKK HUKKKH
WHATTA AHUKK YOU THINK?
CAN'T SEE A HAHHK A THING!
OVER HERE! FOLLOW THE SOUND OF MY VOICE!
DON'T PANIC! THE K-O EXTINGUISHERS ARE PUTTING OUT THE FLAMES!
THAT'S IT. RIGHT OUT THERE.
JORDAN... JORDAN'S STILL IN THERE...
JORDAN?
SO, MR. SMART MOUTH. MR. LETS-PUT-BLACK RINGS-ON-MIGUEL'S VIEWER.
I DON'T SUPPOSE I SHOULD JUST LEAVE YOU TO TAKE YOUR CHANCES, HUH.
EITHER HELP ME... OR DON'T... JUST STOP YAPPIN' AT ME...

WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO'S CONSCIOUS.
WHAT'S THIS THING ON YOUR ARM? LOOKS LIKE A SYMPATHETIC ARMATURE DEVICE, FOR REMOTE MANIPULATING A MECHANICAL ARM.
IT [cough] IT IS.
AND THAT'S THE ACTUAL MECH OVER THERE, HUH?
WOW. WHATEVER THAT PORTAL IS OVER THERE, IT BLEW IT OFF AT THE ELBOW.
LUCKY IT WASN'T YOUR REAL ARM.
TOO BAD IT WASN'T YOUR HEAD.
NOW THERE'S GRATITUDE!

VIRTUAL UNREALITY
WHATEVER YOUR VIRTUAL UNREALITY BOYS HAVE BEEN KICKING AROUND WITH IN THERE, IT LOOKS LIKE IT DECIDED TO KICK BACK.
SO ALL ME IN.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
LAST TIME I CHECKED, BOONE, WE BOTH WORKED FOR ALCHEMAX. SO BRING ME UP TO SPEED.
ONLY WAY I'D BRING YOU UP TO SPEED IS IF YOU WERE TIED TO THE BACK OF MY CAR.
" WHY THANK YOU FOR BEING CONCERNED, MIGUEL. THANKS FOR SAVING MY BUTT IN THERE, MIGUEL. "
" ESPECIALLY SINCE I, JORDAN BOONE, HAVE BEEN SO OBNOXIOUS TO YOU."
LOOK, I'M GRATEFUL, OKAY? BUT I JUST HAD TWO YEARS WORK BLOW UP IN MY FACE, SO I'M NOT GONNA BE EXACTLY CORDIAL.
YEAH, BUT...
SORRY. NOT EVERYTHING CAN BE THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO BE, OKAY?

--WAS YOUR OFFICE, TYLER. SOMETHING ABOUT--
--A MISHAP IN VIRTUAL UNREALITY? THEY SOUNDED CONCERNED.
OH, I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING THAT MY PEOPLE CAN'T HANDLE.
I ONLY HIRE THE BEST.
INDEED.

LAST TIME I PULL A GUY OUT OF A BURNING ROOM.
WELL, MAYBE NOT "A GUY." BUT CERTAINLY THAT GUY.
MIKE! TYLER STONE HERE!
OH, JOY.
BEEP!
HELLO, TY. IF YOU'RE CALLING ABOUT THE VIRTUAL UNREALITY FIASCO, I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
YOUR WONDER BOY, JORDAN, BOTCHED THAT ALL BY HIMS--
NO, NO, I KNOW ALL ABOUT THAT. ACTUALLY, I'M WITH DANA.
MIGUEL? HI. LOOK, TYLER AND I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO DISCUSS. SO I HAVE TO CANCEL TONIGHT.
HUH?
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN.
THE EARTH'S ROTATION MAKES TONIGHT MANDATORY. IF YOU CANCEL IT, IT'LL CAUSE SLEEP DEPRIVATION, SCREW UP THE TIDES, AND HAVE MANY FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES.
YOU'RE UPSET. I CAN TELL BECAUSE YOU USE BIGGER WORDS.
NO. I'M NOT UPSET AT ALL. BUSINESS IS BUSINESS.
LOOK, IF YOU KIDS WANT TO CHAT IN PRIVATE, I CAN...
WAIT. WHAT WAS THAT?

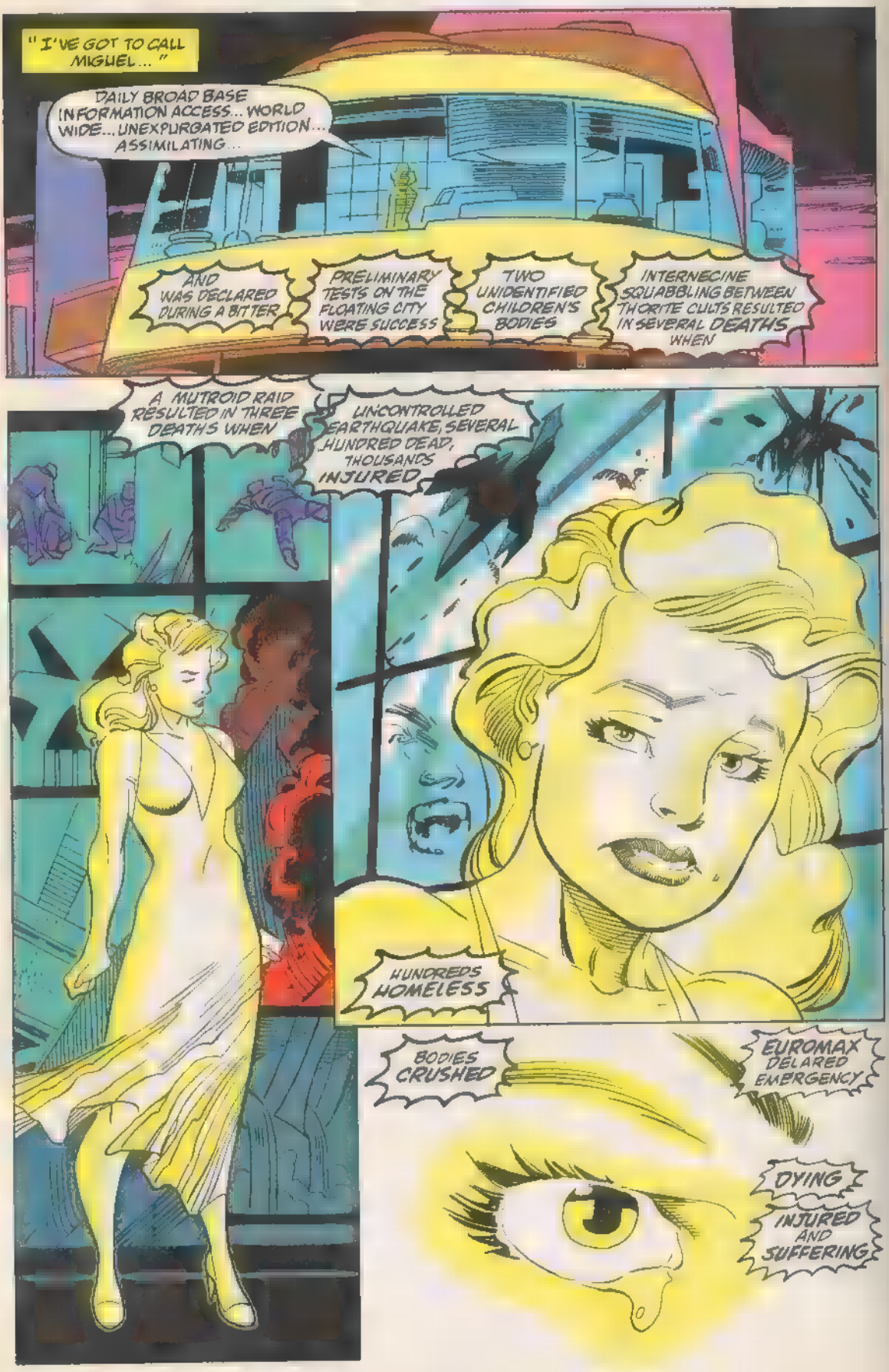
TYLER STONE!
KRASH!
I HAVE COME FOR YOU.
TYLER! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
DANA! GET OUT OF THERE!
TYLER! HELP HER!

SO, DECIDED NOT TO HIDE BEHIND A WOMAN, STONE?
I WASN'T HIDING BEHIND HER! I WAS TRYING TO GET HER IN BACK OF ME!
LOOK, FELLA. I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU ARE... BUT YOU'RE NOT IMPRESSING ME.
ZAK ZAK ZAK
CHOOM CHOOM
VIP
VIP
CHOOM
OOOKAY. I'M IMPRESSED NOW.
SIR? I... I JUST WANT TO SAY...
...THAT'S... A LOVELY HAT YOU'RE WEARING.

I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU'RE IN FAR TOO PRECARIOUS A POSITION TO BE SO OPTIMISTIC.
I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU CAN NOT POSSIBLY GET AWAY WITH THIS.
AH. YOUR DOGS OF WAR.
BACK AWAY AND LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!
I SUGGEST YOU LISTEN TO THEM.
EEYAAAAYH
DICKENS!
PULL UP!
PULL UHHHEEEIIIIII!

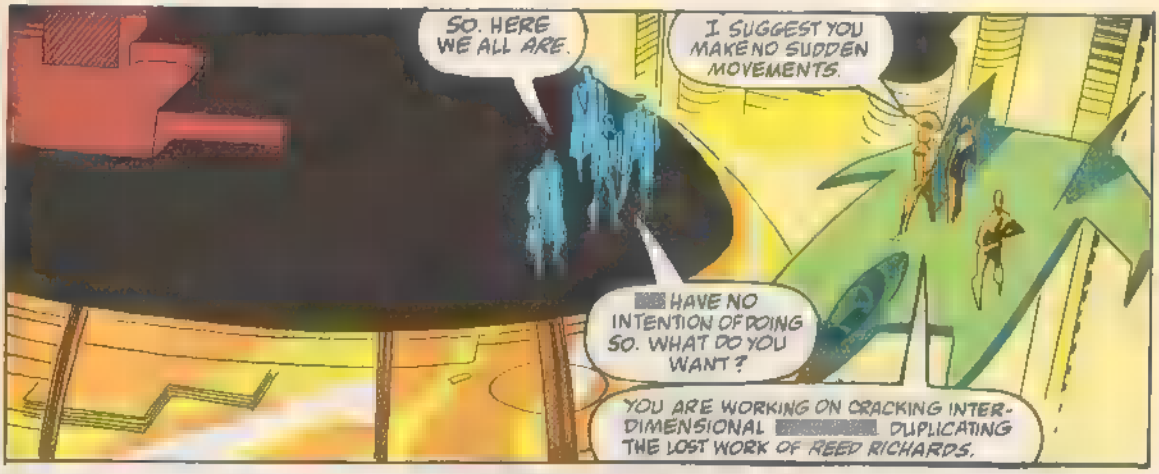
ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS?
Oh Lord... Oh Lord...
CALLING YOUR GOD WON'T HELP YOU, WOMAN.
HE'S DEAD!
I WAS ONE OF HIS PALLBEARERS.
LET THEM GO. NOW.
T-TYLER! DO YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS?
YES. I DO.

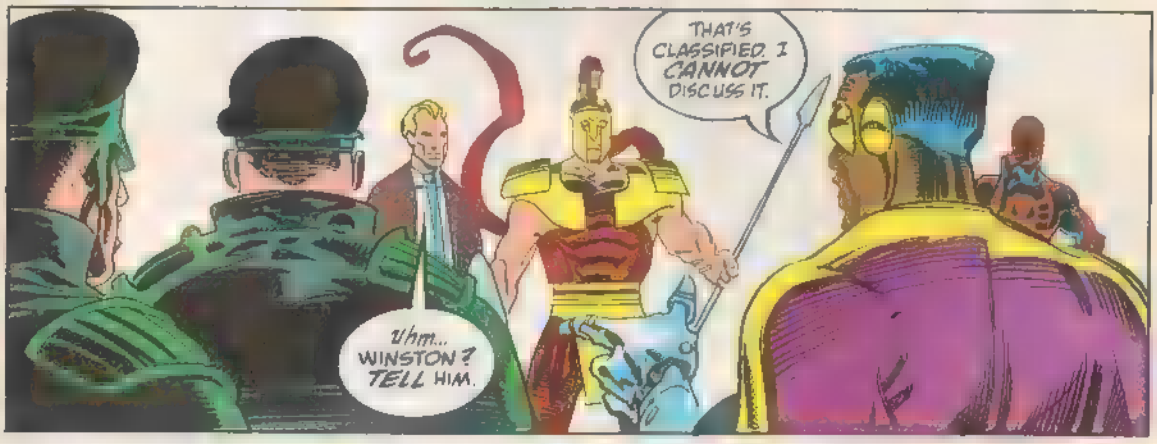
YOU DON'T CARE WHETHER I LET STONE GO OR NOT.
BUT YOU FIGURE IT'S BETTER TO MAKE BLANKET DEMANDS THAN SEEM WILLING TO BARGAIN. CORRECT?
LET THEM GO, BRUSH HEAD... OR ELSE.
DANA'S LOOKING AT ME WEIRD. 'COURSE, THERE'S ENOUGH REASONS FOR THAT ON THE SURFACE... BUT I GOTTA KEEP MY VOICE LOW AND NASTY.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I NEED "BARGAINING CHIPS?"
BECAUSE IF YOU JUST WANTED HIM DEAD YOU'D'VE KILLED HIM BY NOW.
YOU INGRATE. THIS, AFTER I SAVED YOU FROM THE SIEGE PROJECT.
THAT WAS YOU? ALL RIGHT. LISTEN. TRADE ME THE GIRL. I'D MAKE A BETTER BARGAINING CHIP ANYWAY THAN SOME SYNTHIA DRONE.
VERY WELL.
MIGUEL..
MIGUEL...
I'VE... I...


"I'VE GOT TO CALL MIGUEL..."
DAILY BROAD BASE INFORMATION ACCESS... WORLD WIDE... UNEXPURGATED EDITION... ASSIMILATING...
AND WAS DECLARED DURING A BITTER
PRELIMINARY TESTS ON THE FLOATING CITY WERE SUCCESS
TWO UNIDENTIFIED CHILDREN'S BODIES
INTERNECINE SQUABBLING BETWEEN THORITE CULTS RESULTED IN SEVERAL DEATHS WHEN
A MUTROID RAID RESULTED IN THREE DEATHS WHEN
UNCONTROLLED EARTHQUAKE, SEVERAL HUNDRED DEAD, THOUSANDS INJURED
HUNDREDS HOMELESS
BODIES CRUSHED
EUROMAX DELARED EMERGENCY
DYING
INJURED AND SUFFERING

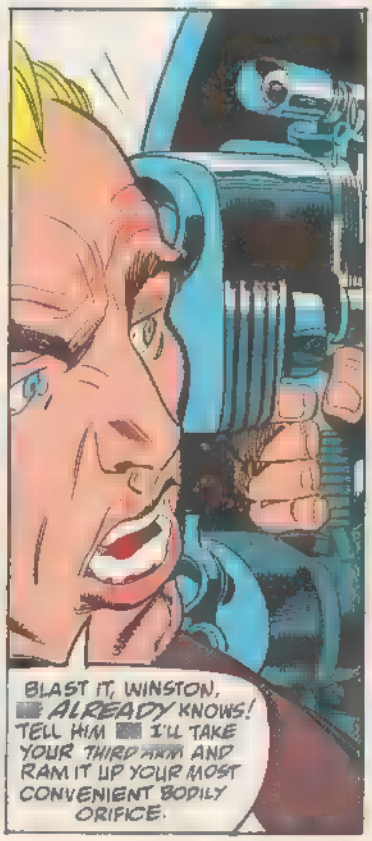
WOMAN LAY BLEEDING WHILE PEOPLE STEPPED OVER
SPIDER-MAN ACTIVELY SOUGHT IN CONNECTION WITH
SYSTEMS FAILURE.
SYSTEMS FAILURE.
Unpruh... unpruh... hunnnh
choke... unpruh... UNPROGRAMMED EMOTIONALITY...
RUN... RUN FULL DIAGNOSTIC RUN...
RUN
SEE Spot Run Run Spot Run
JUMP Spot JUMP
the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.
MIGUELLLLLLLLL
SINK!

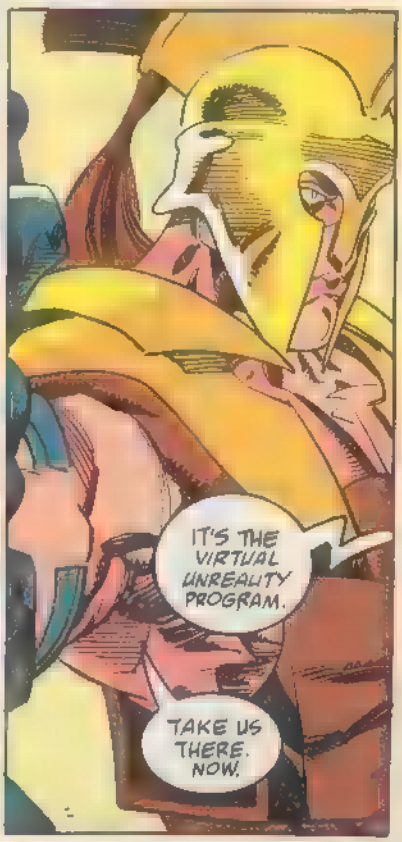
THEREFORE, WINSTON, IF YOU HAVE ANY HOPE OF YOUR Mr. STONE SURVIVING THE NEXT SUNRISE, YOU WILL OFFER NO OPPOSITION [redacted] MY ARRIVAL. PUBLIC EYE CORPS WILL NOT INTERFERE.
AND I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS IS MORE [redacted] THEIR SAKE THAN MINE.
I WILL BE GIVEN COMPLETE ACCESS TO ALCHEMAX FOR ONE HOUR, AFTER WHICH TIME I WILL DEPART, AND YOU CAN HAVE BOTH STONE AND SPIDER-MAN. THESE TERMS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE.
BUT...
THIS HOLOCOM-MUNICATION IS ENDED.
SMK!
ARE YOU SAYING YOU COULDN'T FORCE YOUR WAY IN?
I AM THANATOS. I COULD STORM THE GATES OF HELL IF I WISHED.
PARDON MY HESITATION, SPIDER-MAN. I HEARD A BRIEF, INSIGNIFICANT NOISE, BUT IT'S STOPPED NOW.
YEAH? WHY NOT GO THERE AND TELL US HOW IT TURNS OUT.
I HAVE NO WISH TO ENGAGE [redacted] WASTEFUL DISPLAYS OF FIREPOWER [redacted] WOULD I [redacted] DAMAGING MY GOAL.
THAT BEING..?
YOU SHALL SEE.
YOU SHOULD NOT BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU HEAR.
I'LL SEE BEFORE [redacted] AFTER YOU TURN ME OVER TO THEM?
WHAT ABOUT STONE?
ONCE WE'RE DONE, YOU MAY KILL HIM. MY GIFT TO YOU.

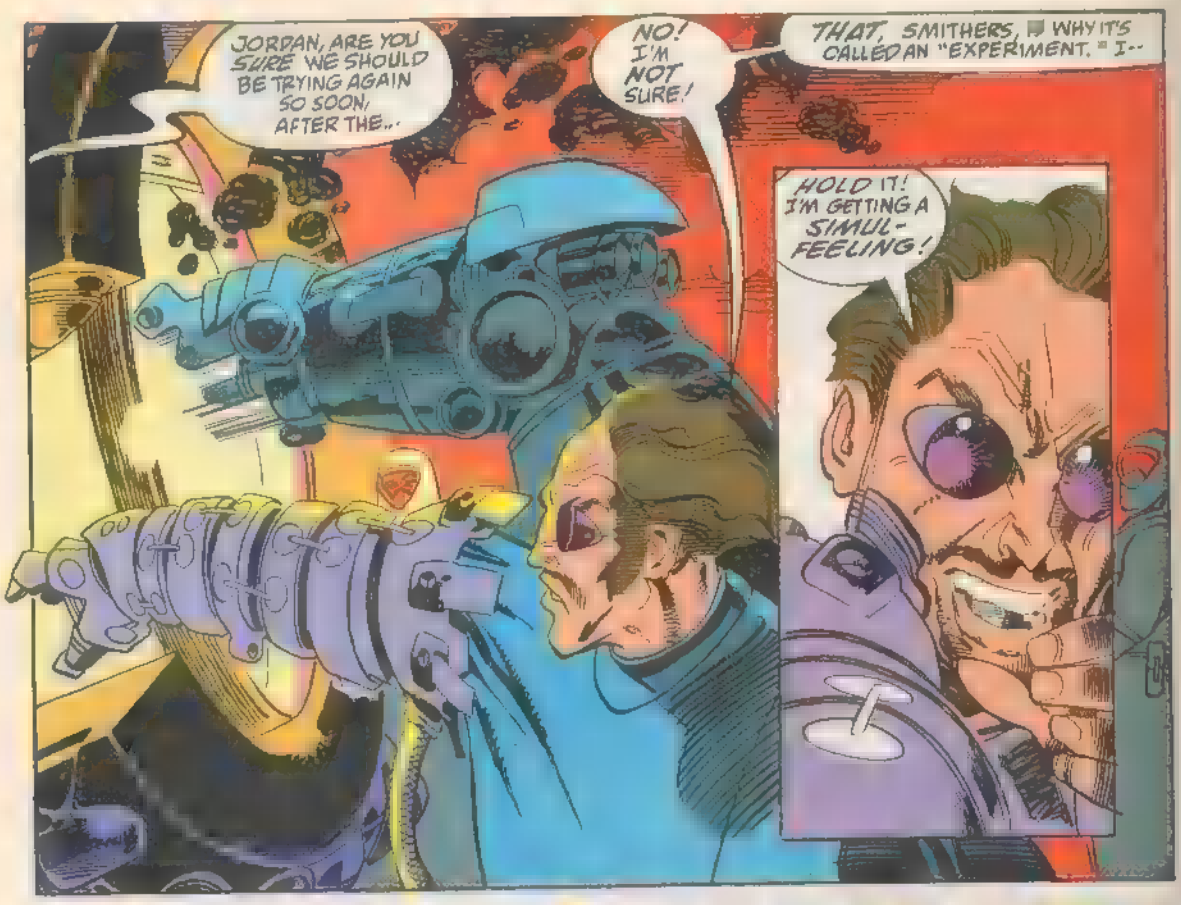

SO. HERE WE ALL ARE.
I SUGGEST YOU MAKE NO SUDDEN MOVEMENTS.
[redacted] HAVE NO INTENTION OF DOING SO. WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU ARE WORKING ON CRACKING INTER-DIMENSIONAL [redacted] DUPLICATING THE LOST WORK OF REED RICHARDS.


THAT'S CLASSIFIED. I CANNOT DISCUSS IT.
Uhm... WINSTON? TELL HIM.

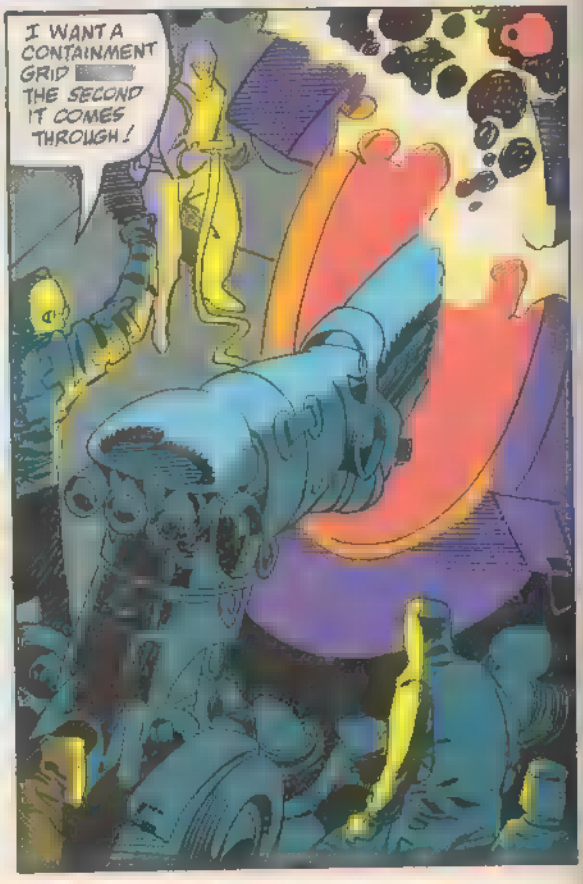
THE C.E.O. HAS STATED THAT ALL SUCH REQUESTS FOR CLASSIFIED INFORMA--

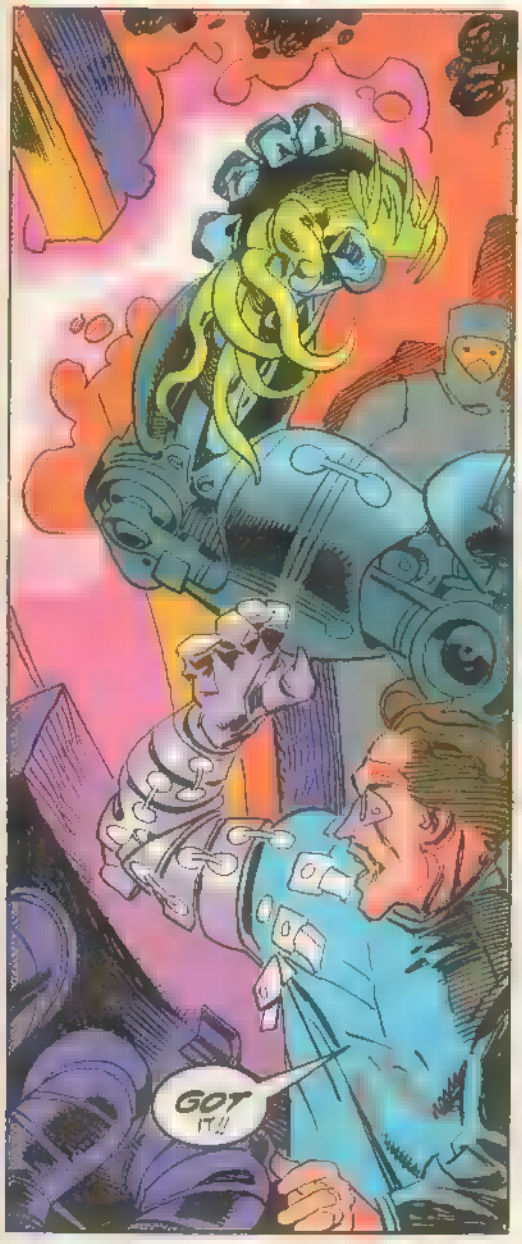

BLAST IT, WINSTON, [redacted] ALREADY KNOWS! TELL HIM [redacted] I'LL TAKE YOUR THIRD ARM AND RAM IT UP YOUR MOST CONVENIENT BODILY ORIFICE.


IT'S THE VIRTUAL UNREALITY PROGRAM.
TAKE US THERE. NOW.

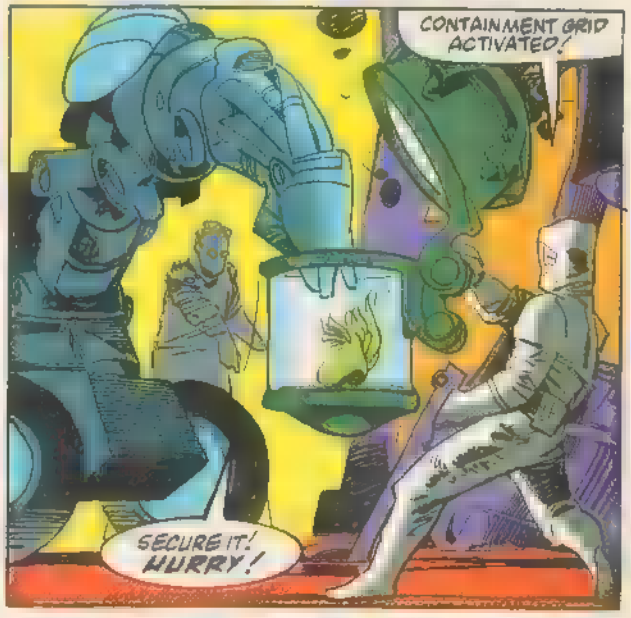

JORDAN, ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD BE TRYING AGAIN SO SOON, AFTER THE...
NO! I'M NOT SURE!
THAT, SMITHERS, IS WHY IT'S CALLED AN "EXPERIMENT." I--
HOLD IT! I'M GETTING A SIMUL-FEELING!

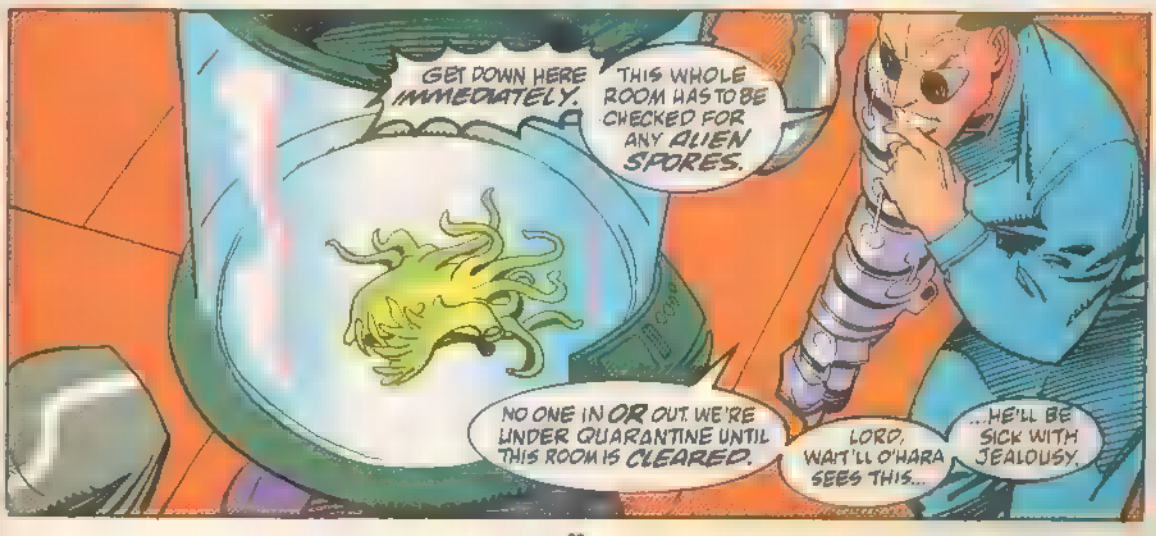
WE'RE THROUGH! WE'RE THROUGH! READINGS SAY WE'RE THROUGH! WE'VE GOT FOURTH D CONTACT!
YES! I'VE DEFINITELY GOT SOMETHING!
I'M BRINGING IT THROUGH! FULL MONITORS ON!


I WANT A CONTAINMENT GRID THE SECOND IT COMES THROUGH!


GOT IT!!

GOOD LORD!
IT'S ALIVE!


CONTAINMENT GRID ACTIVATED!
SECURE IT! HURRY!


GET DOWN HERE IMMEDIATELY.
THIS WHOLE ROOM HAS TO BE CHECKED FOR ANY ALIEN SPORES.
NO ONE IN OR OUT. WE'RE UNDER QUARANTINE UNTIL THIS ROOM IS CLEARED.
LORD, WAIT'LL O'HARA SEES THIS...
...HE'LL BE SICK WITH JEALOUSY.

ONE SIDE.
WHAT THE SHOCK KIND OF OUTFITS ARE THE DECENT PEOPLE WEARING?!
AND WHY IS ONE OF THEM IN A SPIDER-MAN GET-UP?
REMARKABLE. YOU'VE ACTUALLY HARNESSED THE FORCES OF INTER-DIMENSIONAL TRAVEL.
OF COURSE, YOU HAVE NO CLUE AS TO THE ENERGIES YOU'RE BARELY KEEPING IN CONTROL.
THE ONLY THING I GOT NO CLUE TO IS WHO YOU THINK YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE.
WAP
UNNHHH!

JORDAN!
FWiiiZZ!!
HE BETTER BE OKAY! THE LAST THING THE WORLD NEEDS...
...IS ANOTHER POOR JERK WHO GETS WEIRD POWERS FROM AN ALCHEMAX EXPERIMENT-GONE-WRONG!
NO! DON'T LET GO OF ME! DON'T...
WUH... WHAT'S THAT?!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING? HOW ARE YOU DRAWING THE POWER INTO YOURSELF LIKE THAT?!
THERE'S MUCH YOU DO NOT KNOW ABOUT ME, SPIDER-MAN.

MUCH THAT NEITHER OF YOU KNOWS.
GOING SOMEWHERE, STONE?
YOU CANNOT BELIEVE THE PLACES I CAN SEND YOU ONCE I'VE ACQUIRED THE FULL LOST POWER OF THE HEROIC AGE.
YOU OVER THERE! IN THE LAB COAT! SHUT THIS DOWN! HURRY!
WHY SHOULD IT BE SHUT DOWN, SPIDER-MAN?
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE GOING THROUGH NEXT.
THAT FIGURES.
NOW OR NEVER, JORDAN.

I...I DID IT...
...I'M BACK. I'M BACK!!
UH... GOOD. TELL YOU WHAT...
YOU GET YOURSELF SETTLED IN, AND WE'LL JUST GET OUT OF YOUR WAY...
NEXT: THE PROPHET!